

CLAIM LISTING

1. (previously presented) A method for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the method comprising:

presenting, to a remote computing device, a first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting services for producing a production request captured on the remote computing device;

presenting, to the remote computing device, a second user interface having user accessible controls for selecting one or more, if any, document production devices identified as being capable of providing services selected through the first user interface;

merging the selected services and the captured production request into a production plan; and

delivering the production plan in a device specific format to one or more selected document production devices selected through the second user interface.

2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying available services on the network, and generating the first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting the identified services.

3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the act of generating the first user interface includes generating the first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting services not available on the network.

4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the act of identifying available services includes querying devices present on the network.

5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein the act of identifying available services includes querying a services database.

6. (cancelled)

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7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising identifying document production devices capable of providing services selected through the first user interface and generating the second user interface with user accessible controls for selecting one or more, if any, of the identified document production devices.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising monitoring the status of delivered production plans.

9. (previously presented) A computer program product for managing electronic document production over a computer network, the product comprising a computer useable medium having computer readable instructions thereon for:

presenting, to a remote computing device, a first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting services for producing a production request captured on the remote computing device;

presenting, to the remote computing device, a second user interface having user accessible controls for selecting one or more, if any, document production devices identified as being capable of providing services selected through the first user interface;

merging the selected services and the captured production request into a production plan; and

delivering the production plan in a device specific format to one or more selected document production devices selected through the second user interface.

10. (cancelled)

11. (previously presented) The product of Claim 9, comprising further instructions for identifying services available on the network, and the instructions for presenting the first user interface comprise instructions for generating the first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting the identified services.

12. (previously presented) The product of Claim 11, wherein the instructions for presenting the first user interface comprise further instructions for generating the first user interface with user accessible controls for selecting services not available on the network.

13. (original) The product of Claim 11, wherein the instructions for identifying comprise instructions for querying devices present on the network.

14. (original) The product of Claim 11, wherein the instructions for identifying comprise instructions for querying a services database.

15. (original) The product of Claim 14, comprising further instructions for identifying services available on the network but not contained in the service database and updating the services database with the identified services.

16. (original) The product of Claim 15, further comprising identifying services not available on the network and not contained in the services database and updating the services database with the identified services.

17. (previously presented) The product of Claim 9, further comprising instructions for identifying document production devices capable of providing services selected through the first user interface and generating the second user interface with user accessible controls for selecting one or more, if any, of the identified document production devices.

18. (previously presented) The product of Claim 9, further comprising instructions for monitoring the production status of delivered production plans.

19. (currently amended) In a computer network, a system for managing production requests, comprising:

a production client operable to receive a production request, the client comprising:

a capture driver operable to capture the production request; and
an interface translator operable to present first and second user interfaces, the first user interface having user accessible controls for selecting services for producing the production request, and the second user interface having user accessible controls for selecting one or more, if any, production devices identified as being capable of providing services selected through the first user interface;

a production server in electronic communication with the production client and operable to direct one or more selected document production devices to produce the captured production request with selected services, the production server comprising:

a services engine operable to provide the production client with the first user interface, to receive service selections made through the first user interface, to automatically identify the one or more, if any, ~~capable~~ production devices capable of providing the service selection, to generate and provide the second user interface to the production client, and to receive selections made through the second user interface; and

a production engine operable to deliver the captured production request to a production device or devices selected through the second user interface.

20. (previously presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the capture driver is further operable to transform the production request into a selected format and to transfer the formatted production request to the production server.

21. (previously presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the production server further comprises a web server for communicating with the client and the client interface translator is a web browser.

22. (previously presented) The system of Claim 19, wherein the services engine includes a services locator operable to identify services available on the network.

23. (previously presented) The system of Claim 22, wherein the production server further comprises a database of known services available on the network.

24. (original) The system of Claim 23, wherein the services locator is operable to identify available services by querying the database and by querying the document production devices present on the network.

25. (cancelled)

26. (original) The system of Claim 19, wherein the production engine includes a production queue.

27. (original) The system of Claim 26, wherein the production engine further includes a production manager in electronic communication with the production queue.

28. (original) The system of Claim 19, wherein the Client further comprises a server locator.

29. (currently amended) A distributed document production system comprising a services engine and a production engine operating on one or more computing devices that are remote from a production client, wherein:

the services engine is operable to obtain a selection of one or more services for producing a production request captured by the production client, to automatically identify one or more, if any, production devices capable of providing the selected services, and to obtain a selection of one or more of the identified production devices from the production client; and

the production engine is operable to deliver the captured production request to a selected production device.

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) The document production system of Claim 29, wherein the production engine is operable to merge the selection of services and the captured production request into a production plan and deliver the production plan in a device specific format to one or more document production devices selected through the second user interface.

32. (cancelled)

33. (cancelled)

34. (previously presented) The document production system of Claim 29, further comprising a services database and wherein the services engine includes a services locator operable to locate services by querying the services database.

35. (previously presented) The document production system of Claim 34, wherein the production services locator is further operable to locate services by querying document production devices.

36. (original) The document production system of Claim 34, wherein the production server further includes an update service operable to update the services database with services available on the document production devices but not currently represented in the services database.

37. (original) The document production system of Claim 36, wherein the production engine includes drivers for the production devices and wherein the update service is further operable identify new devices and to update the device drivers with drivers for newly identified devices.

38. (cancelled)

39. (previously presented) The document production system of Claim 29, wherein the production engine includes a production queue and a production manager in electronic communication with the production queue.

40. (cancelled)